

(Washington, D.C.) – The Fiscal Year 2008 Agriculture Appropriations bill voted out of the House Appropriations Committee on Thursday included nearly \$10 million in agriculture related funding for West Texas sought by Congressman Ciro D. Rodriguez (TX-23).

Congressman Rodriguez Announces Over \$9 million for Agriculture & Rural Development Funds in Appropriations Bill (Washington, D.C.) – The Fiscal Year 2008 Agriculture Appropriations bill voted out of the House Appropriations Committee on Thursday included nearly \$10 million in agriculture related funding for West Texas sought by Congressman Ciro D. Rodriguez (TX-23). “As

the only West Texas-area Member serving on the House Appropriations Committee, securing funds for these agriculture projects has been a top priority

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said Congressman Ciro D. Rodriguez.

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“The health and revitalization of our agricultural and rural communities is at the heart of our continued economic growth and development. The inclusion of these projects in the Agriculture Appropriations bill is just the first step in the process, but it is a very good first step toward funding these important initiatives.”

Specifically, Congressman Rodriguez secured funding for the following projects in District 23:

- **\$2.05 million for Sustainable Agricultural Freshwater Conservation at Sul Ross State University, a member of the Texas State University system (Brewster).** The research works to create a Rio Grande Basin-wide perspective for integrated management and sustainable use of Rio Grande water resources throughout its drainage basin;

- **\$1.99 million for the Designing Foods for Health Program at Texas A&M University Texas Agricultural Experiment Station (Uvalde).** This scientific research program seeks to identify plant phytochemicals that prevent disease and enhance those compounds in fruits, vegetables, and other food plants that promote human health;

- **\$3.96 million for efficient irrigation research at the Texas A&M University Texas Agricultural Experiment Station (Uvalde, Ft. Stockton, Rio Grande).** The project is a cooperative research and education initiative that focuses on reducing the amount of irrigation water needed to produce crops economically and to meet rapidly expanding urban demands;

· **\$990,000 for beef improvement research at the Texas A&M University Agricultural Experiment Station (Uvalde).** This joint research program will seek to examine differences in the behavioral and physiological responses of cattle with divergent feed efficiencies to reduce feed input costs and environmental impacts of beef production systems, improving the competitive position of the U.S. beef producers;

· **\$295,000 for wool research at the at the Texas A&M University Agricultural Experiment Station (Sonora).** This program will work to develop a fine-wool sheep capable of producing significantly more and finer wool that is well adapted to western ranges in the U.S., increasing productivity, profitability, and safety of western rangelands. Multi-state collaboration will also be used to improve rangeland environments through prescribed sheep and goat grazing of invasive species. The FY 2008 Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration and Related Agencies Appropriations bill reinvests \$18.817 billion in rural America, protects public health, improves nutrition for more Americans, transforms our energy future, supports conservation, invests in research, and strengthens oversight.

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The FY 2008 Agriculture bill must still be approved by the full House and will then proceed through a Conference Committee with the Senate before it can be sent to the President.

Congressman Rodriguez is a Member of the House Appropriations Committee.